

COMPLETE LISTING OF CLAIMS**IN ASCENDING ORDER WITH STATUS INDICATOR**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A fiber channel system, comprising:

a loop comprising a plurality of connected hub ports, arranged in a loop each hub port connected to another hub port, and a plurality of node ports, each node port connected to a corresponding hub port but separated from the loop, said hub ports each including an error detecting portion which detects an error signal loop failure initialization data indicative of an error from a corresponding node port, and a switch, said switch being electrically controlled to pass information from said loop through node port when said node port is operating properly, and to control said switch to bypass said node port when said node port is sending said signal loop failure initialization data indicative of errors.